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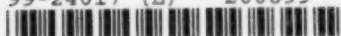
LETTER DATED 19 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on Thursday, 19 August 1999 by the Government of the Republic of the Sudan on the first anniversary of the American military aggression on the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical factory.

The statement was read by the Minister of Culture and Information, Ghazi Salah-Elddin, the Government's official spokesman, at a press conference held in Khartoum, on Thursday, 19 August 1999.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih ERWA
Permanent Representative



Annex

Statement by the Government of the Sudan on the first anniversary of the American military aggression on the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant

The Government of the Sudan issued a statement on the first anniversary of the American military aggression on the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum on 20 August 1998.

Following is the text of the statement, which was read by the Minister of Culture and Information and the Government's official spokesman, Ghazi Salah-Elddin, at a press conference Thursday, 19 August 1999:

"Tomorrow, August 20th, coincides with the first anniversary of the American military aggression on the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum.

"The aggression, which deprived millions of sick and poor people of their right to affordable treatment, constituted a flagrant violation of the Sudan's sovereignty and territories and a stark violation of all international norms, laws and charters, including the Charter of the United Nations Organization.

"The American Administration gave out pretexts to justify the aggression, including that the Al-Shifa plant produced chemical weapons and that it was owned by Usama Bin Laden. However, it failed to bring forward any evidence apart from some weak intelligence information that had been provided by dubious and ill-intentioned sources.

"The falsity of the allegations immediately became evident for the whole world, including the United States of America itself, allegations, the likes of which are still being made to justify a hostile attitude by the United States Administration against the Sudan. By its aggression, it became clear that the American Administration did not respect the role it claims for itself as an international Power responsible for protecting international peace and security.

"More embarrassingly, the allegations it made to justify the aggression were refuted by scientists, engineers, technicians and chemists, including some who participated in the construction of the factory, the supply, installation or operation of its machines. Then came a decisive testimony against the American Administration's allegations from an investigation made by a respected laboratory inside the United States itself. These testimonies have been carried by the international media and the American press in a manner that has not left any room for the American Government to insist on its shaky accusations.

"The Sudan's position towards these unfounded allegations was a simple and logical one. Sudan asked the United Nations Organization to send a fact-finding mission to examine the claims. The Sudanese Government made

it clear that it would accept the results of the investigation and all responsibility emanating from it. It was not surprising for the Sudanese Government, however, that the American Administration rejected the request, since the Sudanese Government is confident of itself and has nothing to hide, whereas it is becoming abundantly clear that the American Government, which is still rejecting the mere discussion of the issue, is not confident in its allegations and has such that it wants to conceal.

"On this sad occasion, the Sudanese Government would like to reaffirm that the Sudan's doors are open and that the Sudan has done nothing wrong to warrant the aggression. The Government of the Sudan renews its call on the Security Council to shoulder fully its responsibilities and commitments by sending a fact-finding mission to Sudan on the nature of the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant and calls on the American Administration to bear the results of the findings of the mission.

"The destruction of the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant had catastrophic consequences on the Sudan, which has been striving since its independence to improve the conditions of its citizens. All the millions of dollars which had been spent on the construction of the factory have been wasted by the unjust attack and hundreds of workers and thousands of their dependants have been deprived of their source of income. The Sudan has lost a vital source of medicines for its people and its livestock. The Al-Shifa plant had been providing 50 to 100 per cent of the needs of the Sudan for medicines at affordable prices. The Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant has been turned into ruins only to satisfy an evil impulse of a Power that wanted to test its destructive capabilities.

"The Sudan has witnessed important political and constitutional developments in the last 10 years, including the Peace Agreement, which includes the right to and self-determination for south Sudan, dialogue over national reconciliation, political pluralism, the positive developments in the country's relations with its neighbours and the European Union and close cooperation with the United Nations in humanitarian issues and human rights. These developments have been acclaimed by many countries and bodies, including the Secretary-General of the international organization. Unfortunately, the United States of America has chosen to neglect all these positive developments and to continue its hostile policies against the Sudan; in contrast, the Sudan wishes to reaffirm its keenness on having a peaceful dialogue and mutual respect with the United States, away from any policies that undermine the free choice of its people or interfere in their internal affairs. Sadly, instead of acknowledging its mistake, the United States continues its series of accusations and nowadays renewed charges have been made based on such erroneous information as that on which the United States based its attack on the Al-Shifa factory.

"On this sad anniversary, the Sudan would like to thank all Governments, peoples and organizations which have shown sympathy to the Sudan and supported its stance, especially the peoples and States of the Non-Aligned Movement group, the Arab, Islamic and African peoples and States, the regional and international organizations and all people and

media organizations worldwide which have supported the Sudanese people and Government in face of the unjust aggression. The Sudan calls on the international community to continue its support for it in facing the renewed threats against its sovereignty and the sanctity of its territories and in boosting its efforts for realizing peace and stability."
